

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (material to be inserted in amended claims is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]).

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Original) A method for producing a firearms cartridge containing at least one tungsten-containing projectile, the method comprising:

compacting a tungsten-containing mixture of powders to form a compacted structure having an outer surface, wherein the mixture of powders includes at least one tungsten-containing component and at least one binder component, wherein the at least one binder component includes a metallic binder component, and further wherein the compacted structure has a density of at least 9 g/cc;

applying a sealant to the compacted structure;

infiltrating the sealant beneath the outer surface of the compacted structure;

curing the sealant; and

assembling a firearms cartridge containing the compacted structure as a firearms projectile.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein after the infiltrating step, the outer surface of the compacted structure includes sealant, and further wherein the sealant on the outer surface is not removed prior to the assembling step.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the method further includes reshaping the compacted structure after the curing step.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the method further includes resealing the compacted structure after the reshaping step.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the reshaping step includes grinding the compacted structure to remove material therefrom.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the method further includes strengthening the compacted structure.

37. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one binder component further includes at least one non-metallic binder component.

38. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the method includes heating the compacted structure.

39. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the method includes plating the compacted structure.

40-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the metallic binder component includes tin.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the tungsten-containing component includes at least one of ferrotungsten and an alloy of tungsten, nickel and iron.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the tungsten-containing component forms a majority component of the mixture, and further wherein tungsten forms a majority component of the tungsten-containing component on an element-by-element basis.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the infiltrating step includes infiltrating the sealant via vacuum impregnation.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein after the infiltrating step, the outer surface of the compacted structure includes sealant, and further wherein the sealant on the outer surface is removed prior to the assembling step.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the reshaping step comprises reshaping the compacted structure to produce an at least near net final shape article having an outer surface.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the reshaping step includes compressing the compacted structure with at least one punch having a face that does not correspond to the shape of the compacted structure.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the reshaping step includes plastically deforming the compacted structure to a shape that is different from its shape prior to the reshaping step.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the compacted structure includes a projecting shoulder and further wherein the grinding step includes removing material from the projecting shoulder.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the grinding step includes removing material from the compacted structure to ~~from~~form an arcuate portion from a projecting edge portion of the compacted structure.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the strengthening step includes heating the compacted structure.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the strengthening step includes heating the compacted structure to a temperature that is less than the melting point of a lowest melting one of the at least one tungsten-containing component and the at least one binder component.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~36~~37, wherein the method further comprises strengthening the compacted structure by ~~step includes~~ activating at least a portion of the at least one non-metallic binder component.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the binder component further includes a curable non-metallic binder component and the activating step includes curing the curable binder component.